



## Visitors Center Fact Sheet

The John C. Stennis Space Center in South Mississippi has become one of the Mississippi Gulf Coast's leading tourist attractions. More than 100,000 people from around the world, representing all 50 states and 60 foreign countries, visit the space center each year.

The Visitors Center offers exciting and informative programs for visitors of all ages. Guided tours, films, demonstrations and an extensive collection of exhibits and displays highlight the visit to Stennis Space Center.

The guided tour takes visitors through the Space Shuttle Main Engine test complex, where the shuttle's powerful main engines are proven flight worthy before being placed on the orbiter. Guests have the opportunity to view an engine test if one occurs during Visitors Center hours of operation. The tour also takes visitors past Stennis' hyacinth pond, a natural water treatment facility, and by the 7 1/2-mile, man-made canal.

Outdoor exhibits include a Space Shuttle Main Engine and a solid rocket booster; a scale model of a Saturn V rocket, which took America's astronauts to the moon; a 1/25-scale model of the Space Shuttle; and a full-scale Nomad buoy from the National Data Buoy Center, which is used to collect data in ocean areas that experience hostile weather environments. Also on display is an F-1 engine that powered the first stage of the Saturn rocket and a 68-foot Jupiter-C rocket, sister ship to the vehicle that carried America's first satellite into orbit, as well as a real Learjet Model 28, which is similar to the aircraft Stennis flies to take remote images of the Earth.

Beside the Visitors Center is Stennis' newest and most unique exhibit, "1 Main St., Mars." "1 Main St., Mars" is a walk-through model of what a future home on Mars may look like, complete with Martian terrain and a two-passenger space buggy parked outside. Inside, visitors learn how the habitat grows its own fresh air and processes and recycles wastewater. A special scale, adjusted to Mars gravity, is available for visitors to check out what they would weigh on the surface of Mars (about 1/3 of Earth weight).

In the Visitors Center auditorium, guests enjoy a selection of movies related to space flight, living and working in space and future space projects. Whenever the Space Shuttle is in orbit, visitors can view the launch, mission progress and the landing anytime during Visitors Center hours of operation.

The Visitors Center's Hall of Achievements highlights space travel history and future NASA missions. It also contains exhibits that represent many of the 30 other agencies in residence at Stennis, including the world-class Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, National Data Buoy Center, National Marine Fisheries, U.S. Geological Survey, Environmental Protection Agency and the Gulf of Mexico Program.

The Hall of Achievements contains a moon rock estimated to be over three billion years old, which was collected by the Apollo 15 mission crew. Also on display next to the moon rock is the actual spacesuit of Fred Haise, a Mississippi astronaut, a crew member of the ill-fated Apollo 13 moon mission.

Also in the Hall of Achievements are several interactive exhibits such as the "Rocket Fuel Factory," where visitors can launch a miniature Space Shuttle using only water as fuel, and the "Feel the Power" exhibit, which contains actual propulsion hardware that has flown in space that can be picked up and examined firsthand. Visitors can also sit in a test conductor's seat and conduct a simulated test firing of a Space Shuttle Main Engine. An exhibit featuring astronauts from Mississippi and Louisiana, as well as a mural from the 1991 Paris Air Show can also be seen. Visitors may also explore the Internet to find out more information about a wide variety of subjects ranging from space exploration to materials available at Stennis for teachers.

Space Believe, an interactive science learning center designed to stimulate interest in science and mathematics in children ages 7 through 12, has recently been remodeled with more entertaining and educational exhibits. "Why Satellites Spin" and "No Sound In Space" along with a 3-D panorama of the Mars Pathfinder landing site, are just some of the intriguing exhibits that will keep visitors of all ages entranced and eager to learn more about NASA and America's space program.

The Stennis Space Center Visitors Center is free and open to the public seven days a week, except Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Tours depart on a regular basis each day, and cameras are allowed throughout the Visitors Center and on the guided tour. Special presentations for groups can be arranged by contacting the Visitors Center for reservations.

Stennis Space Center is located on state Highway 607 with easy access from Interstates 10 and 59. Signs are located along the roadways with directions to the space center and the Visitors Center.

**For more information or to make reservations for groups, call the Visitors center at (228) 688-2370 or 1-800-237-1821 in Mississippi or Louisiana, or access the Visitors Center home page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ssc.nasa.gov/public/visitors>.**

---

NASA Stennis Space Center  
Public Affairs Office  
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529  
(228) 688-3341  
[pao@ssc.nasa.gov](mailto:pao@ssc.nasa.gov)

**Document:** FS-SSC-006 (9801)  
**Modified:** January 1998

---



[Return to Stennis Fact Sheets](#)